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A look at Corps activities and other news affecting the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta

In the News

Bringing Bacon

Written by Tracy Press Staff
March 13, 2009

McNerney said \$5 million was earmarked to dredge the shipping channel from the Port of Stockton to Suisun Bay and to buttress levees along the way, and another \$1.34 million will be used to study deepening the channel so ships can carry full loads.

<http://tracypress.com/content/view/17531/2268/>

County opposes canal plans

Written by Justin Lafferty
Tuesday, 10 March 2009

STOCKTON — At its meeting Tuesday, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors OK'd a letter to oppose a proposed peripheral canal for the Delta.

The canal would take water around parts of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and transport it more directly to pumps that send water to Southern California and Central Valley farmers, an action that the board is against.

The canal is a proposed part of the California Department of Water Resource's Bay-Delta Conservation Plan. Supporters say it will help heal a dying Delta, but many who live here are skeptical.

<http://tracypress.com/content/view/17497/2268/>

Report: Ocean caused Sacramento River salmon decline

By Robert Digitale
The Press Democrat
Wednesday, March 18, 2009

The decline of Sacramento River salmon, which has prompted a proposed fishing ban for a second straight year, was caused primarily by poor ocean conditions, according to a new federal report released Wednesday.

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20090318/ARTICLES/903180234/1012>

Growers are trying to survive

Robert Rodriguez
The Fresno Bee and John Holland
Saturday, Mar. 07, 2009

This year, farmers in much of the western San Joaquin Valley will get no federal water, unless drought conditions improve dramatically.

West Side growers are dealing with not just drought, but also with strict rules to protect fish in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, where the water is diverted.

<http://www.modbee.com/business/story/622863.html>



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Sacramento District

Delta Islands & Levees Feasibility Study

Sacramento District, USACE (SPK)

Current Work

- DWR-USACE PDT site visit will be conducted March 24-25, 2009 to develop problem and opportunity statements to shape the study direction
- The DWR-USACE team will develop some initial formulation work and schedule a multi-agency kick-off meeting, tentatively scheduled for 22 April 09
- Joint DRMS/DILFS workshops will likely be scheduled this spring
- Initial report writing underway; incorporating DWR's DRMS work to the extent possible

Project Purpose

This feasibility study is the Corps' mechanism to participate in a cost-shared solution to a variety of water resources needs for which we have the authority. Results of DWR's Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS) studies will be used to define problems, opportunities, and specific planning objectives. The feasibility study will address flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, water quality, water supply, and a variety of other issues. A feasibility cost-sharing agreement (FCSA) was executed May 26, 2006 with the DWR, our non-Federal sponsor.

Funding

- The total cost of the feasibility study is currently \$12,000,000; cost shared 50/50 with the DWR
- FY 08 appropriations at \$859,000
- The Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study is listed in the President's budget For FY 09
- A total of \$500,000 is expected this FY

Milestones

FY 09: NEPA Scoping workshops, develop problems and opportunities; constraints; and conduct inventory and forecasting, scope hydraulic model requirements, and revise the original PMP

CALFED Levee Stability Program

Sacramento District, USACE (SPK)

Current Work

- The draft Bethel Island schedule is nearing completion and will be disseminated for comment before the end of the month
- A PMP and FCSA for Bethel Island is expected to be ready in the April timeframe
- A programmatic Management Plan (ProgMP) is also under development for the entire Levee Stability Program and is a draft is expected in the June timeframe.
- The Kleinfelder-Geomatrix Joint Venture contractors are busy conducting site visits and trip reports for Levee Stability Program project proposals.
- Following the preparation of the trip report, a preliminary Project Implementation Report (PIR) will be developed to provide information for a project management plan (PMP) which will accompany feasibility cost sharing agreements to be executed with various RDs and other entities.
- The Project Delivery Process is as follows:
 - Site Visit
 - Prepare preliminary draft PIR
 - Develop PMP and FCSA
 - Complete PIR
 - Receive SPD approval
 - Initiate Design
 - Acquire real estate
 - Construct
 - Operate and Maintain

Emergency Response Planning

- Section 22 (Planning Assistance to States or PAS) Agreement between USACE and DWR is required for USACE emergency response planning funding; study cost share is 50/50 (this does not count towards the \$500k PAS limit, as this effort is specifically authorized by PL 108-361); expect agreement to be available end of March.
- GIS Flood Contingency Mapping for 5 Delta counties and the Delta Region

Project Purpose

The CALFED Act (PL 108-361) directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to deliver a report that identified and prioritized potential levee stability projects in the Delta that could be carried out with the authorized \$90 million in Federal funds. An additional \$106 million was authorized to be appropriated by Section 3015 of WRDA 2007. To quickly identify critically needed projects with active non-Federal support, the USACE invited Delta stakeholders to submit project proposals with letters stating their willingness to participate as cost-sharing sponsors. In response, Delta area Reclamation Districts and flood management agencies submitted 68 project proposals totaling more than \$1 billion in estimated costs. USACE evaluated proposals and prioritized potential projects according to how well they met USACE environmental, economic, and other implementation criteria. The USACE short-term strategy is to move quickly to construction on high priority levee reconstruction projects identified in that report. The authorized \$196 million of Federal funds, plus the required non-Federal funds, would be an important first step to address Delta-wide levee system needs. The long-term strategy will be developed through the Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study process. The project delivery process includes: PMP/FCSA development; Project Implementation Report (PIR); SPD approval; Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) execution; design & construct; and operate & maintain.

Funding

- Authorized appropriations of \$90M; additional WRDA 07 add of \$106M for a total of \$196M authorized to be appropriated.
- FY 08: Received \$4,920,000
- FY 09: \$5M expected

Milestones

- Draft Project Implementation Report/EA for Horseshoe Bend, Bethel Island expected October 2009. Additional milestones TBD

Delta Long Term Management Strategy (Delta-LTMS) San Francisco District, USACE (SPN)

Current Work

A joint technical work group meeting was convened on March 12 in Sacramento, Calif., and was attended by representatives from US Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco and Sacramento Districts, Department of Water Resources, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Contra Costa Water Agency, California Department of Fish and Game, Port of Stockton, Port of Sacramento, and other stakeholders. Updates were made on the Sacramento River and Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel Projects, and on scheduling a future management committee meeting. Hillary Applegate from USACE Sacramento District made a presentation on the Bethel Island project, a pilot project of the Levee Stability Program. The group decided to add Bethel Island as a regular agenda item. Discussion also continued on the development of General Orders for maintenance dredging in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta; Delta LTMS comments are due to the Central Valley Regional Board in early April. The work groups continue to seek management-level approval of the Joint Permit Application. Additional updates to the Delta LTMS, including meeting minutes, will be posted on the project website, <http://www.deltaltms.com>.

Funding

The total cost of the study is roughly \$6,440,000; with the Federal share estimated at \$4,340,000 with Non-Federal support estimated to be \$ 2,100,000.

Funding History:

FY 05:	\$ 133,558
FY 06:	\$ 450,187
FY 07:	\$ 591,692
FY 08:	\$ 440,633
FY 09:	
Omnibus bill:	\$ 235,000
FY 10 Funding:	\$?

Project Purpose

The Delta Long-Term Management Strategy (LTMS) is a cooperative planning effort to coordinate, plan, and implement beneficial reuse of sediments in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Delta (Delta). Five agencies (USACE, USEPA, DWR, CBDA, and CVRWQCB) have begun to examine Delta dredging, reuse, and disposal needs. The Delta LTMS will explore ways to coordinate and manage dredging planning, regulatory approval, and implementation to protect and enhance Delta functions, ecosystem, and water quality. The goals of the LTMS are to manage dredging activities to:

- Support and maintain Delta channel functions for navigation, flood control, water conveyance, and Recreation
- Maintain and stabilize Delta levees that protect land-based activities, water conveyance, and terrestrial ecosystems
- Protect and enhance water quality for Delta water supply and ecosystem function

For more information: <http://www.deltaltms.com/>

Milestones

- Unavailable at time of printing.

SF Bay to Stockton Navigation Improvement Project

San Francisco District (SPN)

Current Work

The SF Bay to Stockton team has started hydrodynamic and salinity modeling contracting efforts to determine baseline conditions and impacts from the proposed SF Bay to Stockton and Sacramento deepening projects. The SF Bay to Stockton team is in the process of determining requirements and plans for salinity, dissolved oxygen, and other potential water quality modeling efforts. As the proposed action could generate up to 30-million cubic yards of material, the Corps and the local sponsor are investigating potential placement and beneficial use sites in cooperation with the Delta Long Term Management Strategy (Delta LTMS).

Purpose

The San Francisco District is preparing a general reevaluation report (GRR) and will prepare a corresponding EIS/EIR to reevaluate alternatives for improving navigation in the John F. Baldwin and Stockton Deep Water Ship Channels. The Port of Stockton is the local sponsor and the Contra Costa County Water Agency is a project partner.

Funding

FY 08: Received \$403,000 Federal.
FY 09: To be determined.

Milestones

- Determine placement sites for dredged sediments
- Determine existing and future without project conditions
- Finalize plans for necessary modeling efforts

Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel

San Francisco District (SPN)

Current Work

The Project Delivery Team continues to develop technical materials for the next project milestone, a Feasibility Scoping Meeting, in July 2009. The engineering team is studying the condition of proposed dredged material placement sites, while the environmental team continues to work on the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report. Technical studies on sediment characterization, salinity, and air quality are underway. USACE is also communicating with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on potential endangered species issues.

Project Purpose

The Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel Project is a Congressionally authorized project being implemented by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Port of Sacramento. Currently, the Corps and the Port of Sacramento are conducting a Limited Reevaluation Study to recommend navigation improvements for Federal funding and preparing a joint Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIS/SEIR) to evaluate the action of resuming construction of navigational improvements to the Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel (SRDWSC).

Funding

FY 09: \$1,250,000* *estimated

Milestones

- Feasibility Scoping Meeting - July 2009
- Completion of Re-evaluation Study - May 2010

Delta Links

Delta Initiatives, Official Sacramento District, Corps of Engineers site: <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/organizations/cespk-pao/delta/index.html>

Delta LTMS: <http://www.deltatms.com/>

Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS): <http://www.drms.water.ca.gov/>

Delta Vision: <http://www.deltavision.ca.gov/>

CALFED Bay Delta Program: <http://calwater.ca.gov/>

Delta Protection Commission: <http://www.delta.ca.gov/>

DWR, Delta Initiatives: <http://www.water.ca.gov/deltainit/>

Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) <http://resources.ca.gov/bdcp/>

Bay-Delta Office (BDO), DWR: <http://baydeltaoffice.water.ca.gov/>

California Delta Chambers & Visitors Bureau: <http://www.californiadelta.org/>

SacDelta.com, an interactive guide to the Delta: <http://www.sacdelta.com/>

SF Bay to Stockton Navigation: http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/projects/stockton_navigation/index.html

Subscription Info

Delta News is a monthly publication by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento and San Francisco Districts. To subscribe, please send an email with 'Subscribe' in the subject line to: DeltaNews@usace.army.mil

Upcoming Delta Events

March:

24-25: DILFS PDT site visit, USACE and DWR

April:

22: DILFS Multi-agency kick-off meeting